

RXIT PC

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

Adopted: 1 September 2020 Last revised October 2024, next review October 2025

Introduction

The Parish Council is committed to community engagement at all levels and supports and encourages all community members to engage with the Council.

To achieve its aims and objectives the Council will endeavour to work closely with the residents in the local community, members of local businesses, voluntary organisations, neighbouring Parish Councils, other stakeholders and any other identified person or body who by the nature of their activities have an effect on, or are affected by, the local community.

The council believes that more can be achieved through community engagement, encouraging participation in decision making, being engaged with the local democratic process, and thereby creating a more active and informed community leading to securing better services.

The council aims to:

- Deliver local services cost effectively and efficiently through best value.
- Ensure that community development is driven by the local community and that it represents their needs and ambitions.
- Represent the views of the local community by working with them to improve the local environment and preserve its heritage.

The council's objectives are to:

- Work closely with the local community by listening to their views, needs and aspirations and assist to bring these to the desired outcome.
- Demonstrate openness, transparency and accountability in all Parish Council activities. Support the local economy.
- Work with partners and stakeholders to improve and enhance the local environment.
- Support the work of voluntary groups and organisations.
- Represent the views of local residents in response to local planning applications.
- Promote ethical and fair practices to promote harmony and social inclusion.
- Support efforts to sustain the social, environmental and economic capital within the parish. Ensure that councillors and staff are sufficiently trained to deliver public services to the people served by the parish council.

Community Engagement

The council's Action Plan is the principal channel for informing the local community about the council's activities. This offers community members the opportunity to provide feedback as to whether the council is meeting their needs. The council will engage with its local community by encouraging people to become actively involved

in future plans that will impact on the social, economic and environmental future of the parish.

When the community needs to be involved	How the Parish Council will involve the community	Channel of communication
Development plans for the future of the parish that will impact on the built environment.	Provide details of future development plans and signpost stakeholders to the various channels of how to respond.	Parish Council website & newsletter. Parish Council meetings Parish Council notice boards Email and letters Parish Council Annual Reports Word of mouth Local radio/newspapers
Plans that will impact on; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • social well-being • the economic environment 	Provide sufficient details of who may be affected and signpost stakeholders to the various channels of how to respond.	As above

The Parish Council will:

- Communicate information to our community clearly, factually and appropriately using plain English and avoiding local government jargon
- Endeavour to ensure that all stakeholders are engaged, including hard to reach groups and those that are disadvantaged.
- Maintain an up to date website with links to many services.
- Hold monthly parish council meetings (except for August), with full details published on council website, to which members of the public are invited and encouraged to speak during the public participation session of each council meeting.
- Record the minutes of the meetings and publish them on the website to include comments made in public sessions.
- Follow up the public's concerns in an effort to represent them with the aim of reaching an equitable outcome for all parties concerned.
- Invite the local neighbourhood policing team to attend council meetings where crime and safety issues are discussed and local intelligence exchanged, thus helping to improve social well-being.
- Post agendas for council meetings on the council's website along with supporting documents that help inform the decision-making process. This open and transparent approach provides opportunities for the local community to be fully informed and involved if they wish to comment or express their views on future decisions, especially in relation to development proposals.
- List sufficient details in the agenda to inform which planning applications and consultation the council will consider, including web links to further information.
- Provide contact details for the Clerk and councillors on the website so that members of the public can communicate with the council either by email, telephone or via a website contact form.

- Provide Parish Council contact details, agendas and community information on the several notice boards placed strategically throughout the parish. Community information is also posted on the council's website.
- Be actively involved in, and encourage Councillors and Clerk to engage with, various networking organisations, Local Joint Committees and local partnerships e.g. National Association of Local Councils, (NALC) Shropshire Association of Local Councils (SALC), Oswestry Area Committee, Society of Local Council Clerks forum, North Shropshire Clerks forum, etc.
- Publicise and encourage public attendance at the Annual Parish Meeting in May
- Encourage usage of the Council website to gain information and to engage with the council e.g to suggest agenda items and give feedback.
- Encourage the public to sign up to receive news alerts from the website.
- Where appropriate, issue press releases relating to Council activities and Parish matters

Parish councillors also represent the council on various community groups thus offering the opportunity for councillors to feed back to the council the activities that take place within the parish which enables the council to provide grant funding where necessary to support the social environment.

The council prides itself in representing the people it serves and will continue with its role to engage with the local community to ensure the parish of Ruyton XI Towns is a better place in which to live, work and visit.

REVIEW PROCESS

The Council will review this policy annually

CONTACT THE PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Clerk: parishclerk@ruytonxitownsparishcouncil.org.uk

Contact details for individual councillors are on the website

<https://www.ruytonxitownsparishcouncil.org.uk/>